

Abstract

Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the HIV protein *vpr* or nucleic acid molecule encoding *vpr* are disclosed. Also disclosed are methods of treating patients suffering from diseases characterized by hyperproliferating undifferentiated cells such as cancer by administering such compositions. Methods of identifying compounds which have anti-HIV activity are disclosed, in particular, methods of identifying compounds which modulate the activity of *vpr* and of identifying compounds which inhibit *vpr* binding to the HIV protein *gag*.

[illegible]